

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 311495
ORIGIN EUR-12

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:WHEDGAR:MB
APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:MGARRISON
EB/MA - MR. BANK (INFO)
MARAD - MR. BOURDON (INFO)
-----280127Z 005190 /66
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 311495

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UR, US, APER

SUBJECT: EMBASSY STAFFING (MARITIME)

REF: STATE 280031

1. SOVIET MARITIME ATTACHE DZHAVAD, DURING A CALL ON EUR/SOV ON DECEMBER 22 SAID THAT AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO ASK, IN LIGHT OF THE SETTLEMENT OF OUR OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES ON MARITIME MATTERS, WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT WOULD RECONSIDER ITS DECISION TO REDUCE SOVFRACHT'S STAFF FROM THREE TO TWO.

2. DEPTOFF TELEPHONED SOVIET FIRST SECRETARY TREPYKHALIN ON DECEMBER 27 (AFTER TRYING UNSUCCESSFULLY TO REACH DZHAVAD) TO SAY THAT WE WERE UNABLE TO AGREE TO THE EMBASSY'S REQUEST AT THIS TIME. WE WOULD THEREFORE EXPECT THE EMBASSY TO COMPLY FULLY WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S NOTE OF NOVEMBER 11 (REFTEL).

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PAGE 02 STATE 311495

3. WE TOLD TREPYKHALIN THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER A NEW SOVIET REQUEST TO RESTORE THE THIRD MEMBER OF SOVFRACHT'S STAFF AT SOME POINT IN 1977, AND OUR DECISION WOULD BE BASED ON HOW THE MARITIME AGREEMENT AND THE UNDERSTANDING REACHED LAST WEEK WERE

BEING IMPLEMENTED.

4. TREPYKHALIN SAID THE EMBASSY HAD HOPED THE DEPARTMENT WOULD TAKE THE MORE POSITIVE APPROACH TO THE EMBASSY'S REQUEST, FOLLOWING LAST WEEK'S UNDERSTANDING. WITH APOLOGIES FOR USING SUCH A WELL-WORN EXPRESSION, WE POINTED OUT THAT THE PROOF OF THE PUDDING IS IN THE EATING.
ROBINSON

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NNN

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